

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

APPROVED: 05-13-10

FIRST 5 LA

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
Commission Meeting
April 8, 2010

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioners:

Jonathan Fielding
Neal Kaufman
Alma Martinez
Gloria Molina (Chair)
Marvin Southard (Vice Chair)
Evangelina Stockwell
Carolyn Wilder

Ex-Officio Commissioners:

Duane Dennis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Commissioners:

Nancy Au (Excused)
Jane Boeckmann (Excused)
Deanne Tilton (Excused)
Harriette Williams (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn V. Martinez, Executive Director
Carol Baker, Director of Public Affairs
Yolanda Bosch, Director of Grants Management
& Legal Compliance
Tracey Hause, Director of Finance
& Information Technology
Armando Jimenez, Director of Research & Evaluation
Teresa Nuno, Director of Planning & Development
Maria Romero, Executive Assistant

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Craig Steele, Attorney-at-Law

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

1. Chair Molina called the meeting to order at 1:42 pm. Quorum was present.

CONSENT CALENDAR: (Items 2 – 3)

2. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 11, 2010

M/S (Marvin Southard / Jonathan Fielding)

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

3. Approval of Monthly Financials – February, 2010

M/S (Marvin Southard / Jonathan Fielding)

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

COMMISSION: (Items 4 – 10)

4. Announcements by the Commission Chair

NONE

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

5. Executive Director's Report

RECEIVED AND FILED

- **State Budget** – Staff continues to meet with elected officials. A meeting has been scheduled with the Speaker of the Assembly (John Perez) regarding First 5 LA programs. Chair Molina asked if the State Legislature was moving forward with borrowing First 5 County Commission funds to offset the current budget issues the State is encountering. Executive Director Martinez commented that First 5 County Commission funding was not being considered at the present. The State Legislature is engaged in conversations with First 5 California (State Commission) which fall under different jurisdiction given that it is a State entity.

6. Approval of Auditing Services Contractor

California law requires that each county commission conduct an audit of, and issue a written report on, its financial activities during the preceeding fiscal year. The financial reports at a minimum must include a review of the processes to track and monitor administrative costs, a review of policies needed to assess and communicate the financial condition of the commission, and a process to track evaluation expenditures and document results of those expenditures

Director Hause reported that First 5 LA has historically completed an audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), a Single Audit (if required) and an Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Investment Agreed Upon Procedures for the Investment Policy and proposes to continue this practice. Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP, Certified Public Accountants has been under contract for auditing services for the past five years completing their last audit on the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2009. Best practices in the industry recommend that a proposal process for independent auditing services be completed at least every five years to ensure objectivity of the audit process.

Commissioner Stockwell asked if the contract would be renewed annually despite that the approval was for a five year contract. Director Hause reaffirmed that the auditing services contract would be renewed on an annual basis.

Commissioner Fielding asked if the proposed contractual amount was within Commission guidelines and range of proposals received. Director Hause commented that the bids received through the competitive RFP process were within Commission guidelines.

M/S (Jonathan Fielding / Neal Kaufman)

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

7. Approval of Change in Oral Health & Community Development (OHCD) Funding

Director Nuno reminded the Commissioners that this was item presented in February when Chair Molina introduced a motion directing staff to utilize the remaining funds in the OHCD Project to continue to support oral prevention efforts. The item was deferred until the April Commission Meeting with the direction to staff to mail a letter to all water agencies and local government municipalities in Los Angeles County stating that funding was available to them for water fluoridation. The letter was also to provide a deadline for these water agencies to express their interests in applying for funding. To

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

date, only three water agencies have expressed interest in OHCD funding with only one of these water agencies (Golden State) submitting a full proposal totaling \$5.8 million.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that he was not ready to close the door to having water districts fluoridate their water. He recognized that the Commission has made great efforts but it seems to him that all evidence suggests that this is the most cost-effective way to improve young children's dental health. On the other hand, he does not want to continue this project forever.

Commissioner Kaufman made a three-part suggestion that he thought might be worth consideration:

1. The Commission continue to try to identify water districts that are willing to fluoridate their water. Of the remaining funding, \$10 million should be set aside for these districts. However, after 18 months, the funding would then be used toward the provision of direct services of Oral Health and Nutrition (OHN) expansion.
2. Redirect \$5 million from the existing funding and presently redirect it to Oral Health and Nutrition (OHN) expansion to be able to provide additional services.
3. Develop a plan in the next three months on how the Commission's efforts can be redoubled to engage communities and individuals in those communities to advocate on behalf of fluoridation of their water. The structure of trying to get the water districts to change their policy of top-down approach is really quite challenging. Perhaps when additional communities voices are brought in, this may help in bring change to existing policy. Partnerships could be formed with the Department of Public Health and with experts in dental areas. Staff is to develop and present a plan for community engagement and education on the importance of fluoridation at the July Commission Meeting with an allocation of up to \$2 million, depending on the remaining funding in the OHCD Project.

Given the multi-layer strategy that was being proposed by Commissioner Kaufman, staff reminded the Commissioners about the current financial position of the OHCD Project. From the total amount allocation of \$20 million, \$454,000 have been spent on staff resources with a projected \$342,000 for additional staff resources, \$2.2 million in existing contracts, and \$9.4 million as a reserve for contracts that are going to be finalized in the next couple of months. All of these costs total \$12.5 million leaving a balance of \$7.5 million.

Commissioner Kaufman asked for clarification on the \$9.5 million that is being reserved for contracts. Staff responded that this amount is for those water agencies that are considering applying for OHCD funding but have not formally submitted a proposal.

Regarding public education, the Oral Health & Nutrition framework identifies and defines what are the public education activities. The framework has clear goals that are measurable and are right now part of the evaluation activities.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that the public education activities of the Oral Health & Nutrition Project were more focused around individual behaviors than around dental prevention. His proposed education plan would focus more on helping individuals learn how to advocate on behalf of increased water fluoridation.

As the Oral Health & Nutrition Project stands right now, there are components for water fluoridations. This is one of the prevention strategies that communities are

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

educated about. The outreach that has been conducted through grassroots organizations with some activities being conducted over the last three years and yielding very little success.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested that staff return in three months with an assessment of the public education activities and the impact such activities will have on advocating water fluoridation in communities.

Commissioner Fielding commented that the Department of Health Services would not be the appropriate agency to receive funding to increase community advocacy for water fluoridation. Commissioner Fielding suggested that such funding be directed to dental organizations who have had experience in working with local communities to try and help generate grassroots support for fluoridation. Commissioner Fielding commented that there needs to be more grassroots development. He suggested that in addition to a general education program, work needed to be done with community groups, in partnership or through a dental organization, which would be the best way to accomplish this and increase the support for fluoridation.

Director Baker commented that staff has engaged with dental societies and with a number of community groups, totaling at least 15 contacts. This is in addition to speaking to every City Manager and Mayor of cities that were reached out to. The communities groups have a lot priorities and water fluoridation is a difficult priority as they find it to be a complicated issue in that there does seem to be a vocal minority in many communities, including city council members, who oppose fluoridation. The community groups have not been willing to be supportive. It is unknown if the community groups' position on water fluoridation would change in the future or if more efforts in this area would lead to greater success.

Commissioner Martinez commented that she wanted to make sure that when this item comes back in July for consideration, staff does the appropriate reconnaissance about what has worked and what are the best practices in getting these types of initiatives passed. It is just not enough to reach out to elected officials or water districts. Commissioner Martinez felt that a mobilization needed to begin. Furthermore, given the large budget available, developing the grassroots support should be part of the plan so that local elected officials and water districts can be influenced through the use of other elected officials and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Martinez commented that she felt there existed leveraging opportunities that have not been explored to influence those city council members and water districts that were not supportive of water fluoridation.

Commissioner Martinez recommended that consideration be given to the possibility of bringing other outside resources to support the Commission's effort. She suggested that an assessment be done of staff to determine if the appropriate skill sets are available and further identify the kind of influence that the Commission might need in order to communicate with some of the community contacts. Commissioner Martinez commented that perhaps the direction on how work is done should change, bringing on new talent that think differently from current staff resources. Given the large budget available, she felt that the Commission should take advantage of the opportunity to influence the debate.

Director Nuno commented that it was the staff's interest for the Commissioners to be clear in terms of the financial position of the OHCD project as well as to remind everyone of the efforts that have taken place. All of this and the suggestions being made

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

by Commissioners will be incorporated in the plan to be developed and presented in July.

Executive Director Martinez asked if the April 2nd deadline, approved by the Commission, for water agencies to apply for OHCD Project funding was no longer in effect. Commissioner Kaufman said that if the proposed amendments to the motion were approved, then yes.

Director Nuno commented that whatever plan is brought back in July for Commission consideration, that such plan would have very strong pros, cons and implications thereof.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if the seven applications that had been received would expend the \$9.5 million. He suggested keeping the deadline date of April 2nd and seeing whether all current applicants were funded. If so, then no additional applications should be accepted. If not all applications were funded, then the process could be re-opened with any remaining funding.

Chair Molina commented that the current seven applicants would be considered a phase one funding approach. If the not all of the \$9.5 million was allocated, then the process would be re-opened for a second round of funding. Commissioner Martinez stressed that any additional round of funding should be with a new strategy.

Commissioner Stockwell commented that she was supportive of another round of funding and new strategies. However, if elected officials and communities were still anti-fluoridation, then this funding should be used for other areas of dental health.

Commissioner Kaufman clarified and restated his suggestion. He said that he was suggesting that \$10 million be available to negotiate and finalize the contracts of the applicants who met the April 2nd deadline; that if any drop-out of the process, there is an opportunity for additional applicants. Of the remaining funding, \$5 million are directed to go toward direct services in oral health and nutrition expansion with whatever funding remaining beyond the \$15 million to be redirected. Staff is to come back in July with a plan of whether or not additional funds are needed to encourage communities to fluoridate their water.

Chair Molina commented that Commissioner Kaufman's restatement of his proposed motion was slightly different. Chair Molina attempted to provide clarification.

1. The current recommendation from staff is to set aside funding to continue with the present applications and the deadline for those water agencies that have expressed an interest in fluoridation. Commissioner Kaufman's suggested motion is \$10 million from the staff recommendation of \$9.5 million, and would stay within the framework of the deadline date of April 2nd. If there is no deadline date, then it becomes an open process with no end.
2. The remaining amount of funding is going to go to a series of community and direct services including fluoridation education, fluoride varnish and dental sealants.
3. If, in fact, there is funding still available, then there would be community outreach to encourage fluoridation.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Commissioner Stockwell commented that after all efforts outlined in Commissioner Kaufman's proposed motion have been exhausted, that the Commission move forward and redirect any funding that is still available.

Commissioner Fielding echoed Commissioner Martinez's comments regarding community organization, mobilization and advocacy. He hoped that when staff returns in July with a recommendation, that a focus be placed on the critical issues identified by Commissioner Martinez.

Chair Molina commented that one of the biggest problems in communities is that people do not drink tap water. Most either purchase bottled water or water from purification machines located throughout the community. This is an issue that needs to be addressed given the reality that very few children are drinking tap water.

Executive Director Martinez reminded Commissioners about the study that was shared a few months back where it was discovered that only 6% of children, ages 0 to 5 years, utilized tap water.

Chair Molina commented that the end result the Commission was trying to impact was good oral health outcomes for children.

Executive Director Martinez commented that when staff returned with a recommendation in July, the resources required for intensive community outreach will be outlined and may include hiring an outside consulting firm with grassroots organizing skills/experience that will be devoted to the fluoridation issue.

M/S (Neal Kaufman / Jonathan Fielding)

APPROVED AS AMENDED

8. Approval of Transition Plan for the FY 2009-2015 Strategic Plan

Director Jimenez commented that the proposed Transition Plan reflects the new direction of the Commission. Providing services through initiatives was not the most beneficial way to achieve the impacts desired by the Commission. The intention was not to become siloed by delivering programs through initiatives. From lessons learned, reflection and thoughts have driven the new strategic plan. The Transition Plan has several components and is addressing four specific initiatives: (1) Family, Friends & Neighbors; (2) Family Literacy; (3) Partnerships for Families; (4) Healthy Births. These initiatives comprise 55 grantees and contractors. These will be the grantees and contracts subject to the recommendations of the Transition Plan:

1. Continue funding of those grantees providing services in the selected communities that will be determined at the May Commission Meeting. These agencies will continue to have funding until June 30, 2011 to coincide with the community planning process that will initiate in July, 2010.
2. Agencies will have an additional two months of funding for whose contracts are ending June 30, 2010 giving agencies sufficient notice to begin close-out of programs.
3. For those agencies that are not in the target communities, support would be provided in the form of comprehensive capacity building, technical assistance, or the option of receiving infrastructure support funding.

The Transition Plan allocation will not exceed \$27 million, of which \$22.4 million have already been allocated through the four initiatives but have been expended. The

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

additional \$4.6 million, from the General Fund, would be used to continue to fund grantees in the target communities through June 30, 2011 as well as the comprehensive capacity building, technical assistance and infrastructure support components.

Chair Molina announced that Commissioner Boeckmann, who was not able to attend today's meeting, has respectfully requested that this item be continued to the May Commission Meeting. This would place a delay on how the Commission moves forward with the overall strategic plan but it might be worthwhile from the standpoint of making sure that the Commission is totally inclusive.

Executive Director Martinez commented that the May Commission meeting was going to be lengthy with issues such as governance, community selection, allocations, program models, and LAUP. Due to the anticipated lengthy meeting, Executive Director Martinez suggested that the Commission Meeting begin earlier or end at a later time than usual.

Commissioner Martinez asked what would happen to the timeframe of the two months of additional funding that is being recommended if the approval of the Transition Plan was continued to the May Commission Meeting. Director Jimenez said that the timeline would not be impacted since the Transition Plan would take effect when the selected communities are approved, which is currently scheduled for next month's Commission Meeting, with the assumption that no changes to the recommended communities are made.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that he felt comfortable having discussion on this item and deferring the vote to the May Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Kaufman expressed how pleased he was with the Transition Plan. He felt it was very well thought out and sensitive to the concept of initiatives phasing out and providing support.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested extending the length of time that individual grantees are funded for a longer period of time. He suggested that all organizations, whether they are in the target area or not, continue funding until June 30, 2011. This would mean an additional \$4 million allocation above the staff recommendation. He felt this was the right thing to do. This would provide grantees with a longer range planning.

Commissioner Kaufman also suggested funding a proportionate percentage of grantees through June 30, 2012. This would equate to an additional \$31 million in funding. Commissioner Kaufman commented that this would allow for some of the current services being provided by grantees to become sustainable.

Commissioner Martinez commented that while she understood Commissioner Kaufman's suggestions, she asked what happened to the general will of the Commission to move forward with a place-based approach rather than continue with an initiative-based funding approach. She said that she wanted to be supportive of the thinking and process of prior predecessors.

Commissioner Kaufman commented that he has 10 years of experience on the Commission where his entire mission has been to create place-based approaches. He believes that the transition approach will not harm this and in many ways, will help as some of the organizations will be within the target communities. Those grantees outside the target communities will be able to create better self-sustaining approaches if a

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

longer period of funding is provided to them with some percent of the proposed additional \$31 million.

Director Jimenez commented that one issue of importance is that the initiatives are doing wonderful work but collectively, on an annual basis, serve less than one percent of the eligible population, using poverty standards as baseline. The importance for the Commission to move forward into a place-based funding approach was to try to understand how the Commission could broaden the policy advocacy work to try to maximize the number of children that could benefit from the Commission's work.

Commissioner Kaufman stated that he agreed with the reason for moving forward into a place-based funding approach but wanted a gentler and softer landing. Director Bosch reminded Commissioners that all grantees have known for a long time that the Commission was moving forward into a place-based funding approach. This should not be new to grantees.

Commissioner Fielding said that it seemed that the issue of sustainability is always very difficult. The Commission needs to evaluate how organizations perform when First 5 LA funding is terminated to determine what seems to make a difference and what works. He suggested that the Commission invest in this type of evaluation and request additional funding to do so, if necessary.

Commissioner Fielding commented that when fully implemented, the place-based approach will only impact 10% to 15% of eligible children. He is very interested in the type of supportive activities that will impact the other 85% to 90%. The Commission should explore cost-effective opportunities that would enable it to reach out to every eligible child.

Commissioner Fielding asked for clarification on the interface between existing contractors and the place-based contractors.

Commissioner Martinez asked if all 55 grantees and contractors had received their funding through a competitive process. Director Jimenez responded in the affirmative.

Chair Molina urged Commissioners to take advantage of the additional time granted to this item, with its continuation to the May Commission Meeting, and obtain clarification on any questions that they may have.

9. Approval of Motion to Provide Transition Funding to Preserve the Black Infant Health Program

NOTE: Due to a conflict of interest, Commissioner Fielding recused himself from participating in the discussion and subsequent vote of this agenda item.

Commissioner Wilder commented that the African-American community experiences a higher rate of mortality in comparison to other racial and ethnic groups. African-American infants are twice as likely to die in the first year of life in Los Angeles County.

The Black Infant Health Program serves at-risk, pregnant African-American women in the Antelope Valley, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, downtown Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, and the South Bay. It is known that the Black Infant Health

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Program works because between 2000 and 2004, the percentage of low birth weight babies among Black Infant Health Program clients decreased by 50 percent.

The First 5 LA Healthy Births infrastructure heavily relies on an ability to refer women to the Black Infant Health Program. The Healthy Births infrastructure would be severely crippled if First 5 LA does not fund the supported services. Last year, First 5 LA did the right thing. Taxpayer dollars, entrusted to First 5 LA, were used to ensure three Black Infant Health Programs would survive. Those three programs were operated by the City of Long Beach, the City of Pasadena, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Doing this was completely consistent with First 5 LA's core mission.

Commissioner Wilder read the following motion that would again ensure Black Infant Health Program services remain available for at-risk, pregnant African-American women as First 5 LA transitions toward a new strategic plan.

In September 2009, the First 5 LA Commission voted to support the Black Infant Health Program in Los Angeles County due to the loss of funding for this program that serves the most vulnerable families in our county. First 5 LA entered into agreements with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the City of Long Beach Department of Health and the City of Pasadena Department of Health for a total of \$1,161, 986 to preserve these critical services. These agreements are scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2010.

First 5 LA staff has put together a transition plan to build upon the existing First 5 LA investments, ensure that direct services are still available in the target communities for the next strategic plan, and maintain the organizational capacity and infrastructure during the planning process. The Black Infant Health Program is a critical part of the Healthy Births infrastructure and should be considered as a critical investment that merits transition funding.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT we provide transition funding at the current level for the three Black Infant Health programs in the County of Los Angeles, to coincide with the extensions for the Healthy Births Initiative grantees.

Commissioner Stockwell thanked those who participated in public comment for sharing their stories. Commissioner Stockwell also commented that she was confused as she recalled that in September of last year, when the Black Infant Health Program made a request for funding, she asked the question if such request was following protocols. Commissioner Stockwell commented that she was told it was an exception since the Black Infant Health Program had lost its State funding. She also recalled that the request was only for one year.

Commissioner Stockwell commented that as a person of color, she totally is totally supportive, understands the plight, and can see the need. Commissioner Stockwell asked the Commission to decide if established funding protocols were to be followed or, if not, to allow other agencies to come forward and request additional funding.

Commissioner Stockwell commented that as the Commission was moving forward with its new strategic plan, the Commission needed to really look at where it wants to go and

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

what its about. She further commented that the Commission's actions should always be upfront, transparent and letting the public know that the Commission is going to work in different ways.

Commissioner Southard commented that he, too, was confused as he did not understand the interface between this item and the approval of the Transition Plan. To him, although they have certain similarities, they are not exactly the same. Commissioner Southard asked if it made sense to consider this item in the context of the approval of the Transition Plan because funding the Black Infant Health Program is also a transition for people who are getting current funding into the new phase.

Director Bosch commented that the funding of the Black Infant Health Program in September of last year was a one-time investment, as an emergency response to Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' motion to the Board of Supervisors. It was never contemplated that funding would be ongoing. The contract has specific language to this effect and Black Infant Health Program was not incorporated into the Transition Plan because it was not to be transitioned.

Commissioner Kaufman asked, geographically speaking, in terms of the 24 communities that are still in target, if the Black Infant Health Programs were within those targeted communities or outside. Executive Director Martinez responded that a determination had not been made as to which communities had been selected. As of right now, all that could be said is that Antelope Valley and part of Long Beach were part of the 24 communities.

Commissioner Kaufman concurred with Commissioner Stockwell about the past inconsistencies of funding requests. He also liked Commissioner Southard's suggestion that as the Commission thinks about place-based strategies, this was the type of program that the selected communities may incorporate into their strategies. Given that roll-out is approximately one year away, Commissioner Kaufman suggested it would be reasonable to consider this funding request as part of place-based funding package.

Commissioner Martinez commented that she felt comfortable with Commissioner Southard's suggestion of including the Black Infant Health Program as part of the Transition Plan. She also said that she found the issue of supplanting to be problematic as this was a County-funded program. Commissioner Martinez commented that she would be comfortable with the Black Infant Health Program being considered within the context of place-based funding. She also said that there needed to be a sounding of reality for people to understand that programs may be downsized in the new place-based funding approach.

Commissioner Wilder commented that this was the right thing to do. She felt that First 5 LA should sustain programs that work and programs that meet the mission of First 5 LA and benefit the target population. The Black Infant Health Program is just one of those programs.

Commissioner Dennis commented that precedent was set in September when this issue was presented and there was unanimous vote. The issue is being presented again but the Commission does not have any criteria for emergency funding. Commissioner Dennis encouraged the Commission to consider an emergency fund that is in alignment with the strategic plan that could take care of issues such as this one. In his view, Commissioner Dennis agreed to some degree with Commissioner Stockwell in that

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

without criteria, decisions cannot be made. But, at the same time, there is real need in communities throughout Los Angeles County. He felt that it was the responsibility of the Commission to provide such assistance but, without criteria to do this, there are issues that arise.

Chair Molina commented that she appreciated Commissioner Wilder's motion and felt that everyone understood how important it was to raise the mortality rates of Black infants. This is a very important program. However, Chair Molina did not understand the pathway that was being undertaken. She understood that First 5 LA was asked to fill in the gap when State cuts took place. Chair Molina stated that she did not think this was the only worthwhile and worthy program throughout the entire region that was eliminated by State cuts. Having been a member of the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Health was cut by over \$40 million, the Department of Mental Health was cut about \$70 million, and Department of Public Social Services had a series of cuts as well because the State cut back on their programs. Without criteria, it is difficult for the Commission to fund agencies whose funding has been cut by the State. The Commission is trying to figure out how to deal with those organizations that do not fit the place-based criteria. As it is, there seems to be a different set of approaches of how to begin dealing with transitioning those organizations, as well as transitioning this Commission to think and move toward place-based as compared to ongoing funding within the initiatives that have been in existence.

Chair Molina further commented that all of these issues were important. She asked Legal Counsel Steele to submit the appropriate legal memo on the issue supplanting. Chair Molina asked that Legal Counsel Steele define and explain the issue of supplanting so that all Commissioners could be able to recognize and understand what is the supplanting of funds.

A second issue that Chair Molina said needed to be addressed was the issue of how to approach funding. As she understood it, the motion called for gap funding or bridge funding for some level of self sustainability. Chair Molina stated that she did not know if the case had been made, as yet, by the Black Infant Health Program. She felt that this was something that should be pursued and presented as to what other levels have been provided. She asked if this funding request was actually a request of gap funding or if it was going to be an ongoing situation since funding at the State and County would not be available as it has been. Chair Molina reminded that the reason the Commission was a separate entity from the County was because it would have the flexibility to operate outside regular funding streams in an effort to change outcomes in the 0-5 population with the understanding of bringing about a healthier and better outcome for children. Chair Molina said that there is nothing worse than having a mission that gets side tracked and loses its focus. Furthermore, Chair Molina stated that clarification was needed to the issues she identified before any action could be taken. Chair Molina stated that the Commission could consider these issues as part of the Transition Plan or set up criteria for emergency funding of those agencies that will need some type of bridge funding before any action is taken.

Commissioner Wilder suggested continuing this item until the May Commission Meeting to provide those Commissioners not present with the opportunity to provide their input.

Chair Molina was supportive of Commissioner Wilder's suggestion and stated that in order for the Commission to take action, it needed to (1) decide if the Black Infant Health Program request would be incorporated into the Transition Plan and explore it

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

within that framework, (2) obtain an interpretation of the Attorney General opinion on the issue of supplanting, (3) review outcomes of the Black Infant Health Program to know how it is carried out and whether it fits within the mission of First 5 LA, and (4) what other approaches the Black Infant Health Program has undertaken for sustainability.

Commissioner Kaufman suggested approving partial funding for up to three months while the information requested was being gathered. Chair Molina was not supportive as she was not willing to approve funding without knowing how much has been spent and in what communities.

Commissioner Kaufman asked if the Black Infant Health Program continues to spend as they have done so far, would there be any surplus that could be used for a funding extension. Director Bosch commented that the Black Infant Health Program was granted over \$1.1 million last September of which \$135,000 has been paid out.

Commissioner Martinez expressed concern about the Black Infant Health Program requesting additional funding when last year's gap funding allocation has not been fully expended.

10. PRESENTATION: Community Selection Methodology

On June 11, 2009, the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners approved a new Strategic Plan for FY 2009-2015. This strategic plan represents a new commitment by the Commission to direct funding to specific communities in LA County. The adoption of a "place-based" approach has multiple benefits, including the ability to focus resources on families most in need; to create a seamless pipeline for children through which to more effectively serve families along the continuum of a child's development; to fund creative partnerships with families, communities residents, and other funders; and to better measure First 5 LA's impact across funding areas. In addition, place-based funding recognizes that the places where children live are strong influencers on their ability to be safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Since the approval of the strategic plan, staff have begun the process of identifying the communities where First 5 LA will target its funding for the next five years.

Special Planning Meetings (formally known as Joint Planning Committee Meetings) were held on July 16th and September 17th. At these meetings, staff presented information about the community selection process that is currently being conducted, including an overview of the process and the specific indicators that are being considered. Staff got input from Commissioners on the selection process and was given direction to bring guiding principles of community selection to the Commission for further discussion and approval. These principles were subsequently approved at the October 8th Commission Meeting. Therefore, First 5 LA will select communities for the FY 2009-2015 Strategic Plan adhering to the following principles:

- Data-Driven
- Select Only High-Need Communities
- Prioritize High-Need Communities based on their Strengths and Capacity, including Community Leadership and Commitment, Community Infrastructure, and Potential for Partnership
- Respect Natural Community Boundaries
- Representation of Diverse Populations and Regions

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

11. Public Comment

Millicent Alexander, Los Angeles Unified School District
Meliza Roa Arreola, LTSC
Barbara Boyd, Black Infant Health Program
Cindy Gillett, Black Infant Health Program
Latasha Haynes, GBBB
Bishop Henry Hearn, Lancaster Black Infant Health Program
Clanisha Johnson, Black Infant Health Prototypes
Lynn Kersey, MCH ACCESS
Jenni Kuide, LTSC
C. McKinley Kemp, Antelope Valley Black Infant Health Program
Yvette Nerro-Scott, Black Infant Health Program
Ebonie Scott, Great Beginnings for Black Babies
Teresa Smith, Black Infant Health Program
Crystal Sowell, Black Infant Health Program
Michelle Stubblefield, MCCN Black Infant Health Program
Veronica Williams, Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services
Bob Winn, MCCN Black Infant Health Program

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be on:

May 13, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
750 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meeting minutes were recorded by Maria Romero.